

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1444

By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative
Dewayne Bunch on his meritorious service as a
member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, Representative Dewayne Bunch is one such distinguished public servant whose illustrious career in the House of Representatives will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 104th General Assembly, as he has announced his retirement from this august Body; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bunch has been a highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of the 24th House District and all of Bradley County, and he has served his constituents in numerous capacities, always working diligently at his elected duties and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the 24th House District evinced their great faith in the political and governmental capabilities of Dewayne Bunch in 1998, by electing him as their representative to the Tennessee General Assembly, a position in which he has performed admirably; and

WHEREAS, during his four terms in the House of Representatives, he has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, born on March 15, 1959, Dewayne Bunch graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree, East Tennessee State University

with a Master's degree, and the University of Tennessee College of Law with a Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree; and

WHEREAS, Representative Dewayne Bunch is a dynamic and active participant in the legislative process and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions and service during the 101st – 104th General Assemblies; he has astutely served as a member of the Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee, the State and Local Government Committee, the State Government Subcommittee and the Employee Affairs Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart conservative leader on ethics issues and a respected attorney within the House Republican Caucus, Representative Bunch served as Chair of the Ethics Task Force for the House Republican Caucus, which proposed 33 pieces of legislation, and was appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Establishment of the Ethics Commission, on which he valiantly and effectively led the Republican effort on ethics issues, with the final ethics bill containing 27 of the 33 Republican recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor of numerous bills to safeguard our children, Representative Bunch has also supported legislation to establish a state sales tax holiday, protect the unborn, and preserve the sanctity of marriage, while strongly opposing efforts to establish a state income tax; and

WHEREAS, for his unparalleled devotion to public service and his constituents, Representative Bunch has received numerous awards and honors, a testament to the honesty, integrity, and overall exemplary character and devotion with which he has performed his duties as a servant of the people; and

WHEREAS, for his principled and articulate leadership, Rep. Bunch has been honored by the Tennessee School Board Association as "Legislator of the Year" and has twice received the "Friend of the Family" award, in addition to receiving the Equal Justice Award from the Tennessee Alliance of Legal Services and Legal Aid of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of leadership and citizenship, Dewayne Bunch has given his time and energies to many community, civic, and charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished attorney, Dewayne Bunch practices law as a partner with McCoin, McCoin, Bunch and Associates; and

WHEREAS, his many civic and professional accomplishments aside, Representative Dewayne Bunch is most appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Karen, and their marriage has been blessed with two wonderful children, Clay and Pierce; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Dewayne Bunch is an active and faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, Dewayne Bunch's retirement from the House of Representatives will leave a void that will not easily be filled, and his considerable talents and energies will be sorely missed by the good people of the 24th House District; and

WHEREAS, this Body finds it appropriate to bid farewell to our respected friend and colleague, Representative Dewayne Bunch; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Representative Dewayne Bunch on his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service of the citizens of the 24th House District and Bradley County, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.